

Date Mailed April 14, 2000

BEFORE THE

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Application of Madison Gas and Electric Company as a Gas
Public Utility for Authority to Construct and Place in
Operation a High-Pressure Main in the City of Madison

3270-CG-116

**NOTICE OF PROCEEDING
AND
INVESTIGATION AND ASSESSMENT OF COSTS**

THIS IS A PROCEEDING TO consider the March 10, 2000, application of Madison Gas and Electric Company (MGE), as a gas public utility, for authority under Wis. Stat. § 196.49(3), and Wis. Admin. Code ch. PSC 133, to construct and place into operation a high-pressure main in the City of Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin.

MGE is a gas public utility as defined in Wis. Stat. § 196.01(5), with its principal office at 133 South Blair Street, Madison, Wisconsin. MGE is engaged in the business of distributing and selling natural gas in the cities of Madison, Fitchburg, Middleton, and Monona; and in other Wisconsin cities, villages and towns.

MGE states that this project is necessary to meet the increase in demand for natural gas on its distribution system in central Madison and the campus of the University of Wisconsin. The project proposed by MGE includes the installation of a new high-pressure gas supply main and associated pressure regulation facilities. The proposed new main would supply gas to existing MGE facilities near the University of Wisconsin's existing central heating and cooling plant at Walnut Street.

MGE proposes to construct the new main starting at its existing Freeport Station, which is located just south and west of the intersection of the Beltline and Verona Road. The route of the new main proceeds generally north from the Freeport Station across the Beltline and along an existing abandoned railroad right-of-way to an area near the intersection with Commonwealth Avenue. The new main will then proceed north along Commonwealth Avenue and Allen Street to an area near the intersection of Walnut Street and Campus Drive. At this point, a new regulating station will be installed to reduce the pressure to 150 psig. The proposed line consists of approximately 20,000 feet of 12-inch diameter steel main, with an operating pressure of 360 psig.

The route includes an existing railroad right-of-way, which is being converted to a bicycle trail, and road right-of-way. MGE states that the bicycle trail is going to be constructed

this year and that substantial cost savings can be realized by constructing the new main before the bicycle trail is built. MGE states that the total cost for the project is \$3,330,500.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the Commission considers it necessary, in order to carry out its duties, to investigate all books, accounts, practices, and activities of the applicant. The expenses incurred or to be incurred by the Commission which are reasonably attributable to such an investigation will be assessed against and collected from the applicant in accordance with the provisions of Wis. Stat. § 196.85 and Wis. Admin. Code ch. PSC 5.

This is a Type II action under Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 4.10(2). Commission staff will prepare an environmental assessment to determine if the preparation of an environmental impact statement is necessary under Wis. Stat. § 1.11. Persons wishing to contribute environmental information for consideration should contact Michael John Jaeger at (608) 267-2546, e-mail address: jaegem@psc.state.wi.us.

The Commission does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the provision of programs, services, or employment. Any person with a disability who needs accommodations to participate in this proceeding or who needs to obtain this document in a different format should contact the case coordinator listed below.

Questions from the media may be directed to Jeffrey L. Butson, Public Affairs Director, at (608) 267-0912.

Questions regarding this matter may be directed to case coordinator Jeff Murley at (608) 267-1207.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, _____

By the Commission:

Lynda L. Dorr
Secretary to the Commission

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